

NAME: Shimizu, Toru DATE OF BIRTH: 9/1893 PLACE OF BIRTH: Miyazaki  
 Age: 77 Sex: M Marital Status: Education: High School in Manchuria & Elementary school in United States.

## PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 12/1915 Age: 22 M.S. S Port of entry: San Fran.  
 \*Occupation/s: 1. Student/Wood Chopper 2. Student/Farmer 3. Orchard/Strawberry Grower  
 Place of residence: 1. Los Angeles, Ca. 2. Seattle, Wash. 3.  
 Religious affiliation: Christian Church  
 Community organizations/activities:

EVACUATION: \* 4. Gardener 5. Nursery Business

Name of assembly center:

Name of relocation center:

Dispensation of property: Nursery - sold Names of bank/s:

Jobs held in camp: 1. 2.

Jobs held outside of camp: Farmer (In Utah)

Left camp to go to: Springville, Utah

## POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: Address/es: 1. Springville, Utah 2. Salt Lake City, Utah

3.

Religious affiliation: Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City, Utah

Activities: 1. 2. 3.

If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:

Name of interviewer: Kato Date: 1971 Place: Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Translator: Kato

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A STUDY OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF  
ISSEI IN THE USA

I. IN JAPAN

MY NAME IS TORU SHIMIZU AND I AM A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. I WAS BORN IN TOSHIRO CITY OF MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE IN SEPTEMBER 1893 (IN THE 26TH YEAR OF MEIJI).

I DO NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR. MY RECOLLECTION OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR IS THE TIME WHEN GENERAL TOJO RETURNED TRIUMPHANTLY AND ALSO TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF MARSHAL OYAMA. DURING MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAYS I RECALL EMPEROR MEIJI'S MILITARY REVIEW. I REMEMBER WORLD WAR I FOR I WAS IN AMERICA THEN. I REMEMBER THE MANCHURIAN EVENT.

DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, I LIVED IN RYOJUN CITY IN MANCHURIA. BECAUSE OF THE DORMITORY LIFE, I ENJOYED PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS.

RELIGION OF MY FAMILY - SHINTOISM.

No, I DID NOT HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN.

I DESIRED TO GO TO AMERICA BECAUSE MY ELDER SISTER LIVED IN UTAH THEN, AND FINALLY IN 1915 I WAS ABLE TO COME TO AMERICA.

I GRADUATED FROM THE RYOJUN HIGH SCHOOL IN MANCHURIA.

MY REASON FOR COMING TO AMERICA WAS TO STUDY SINCE MY ELDER SISTER LIVED IN UTAH.

II. RECOLLECTIONS - ON BOARD SHIP TO AMERICA

IT WAS A FINE VOYAGE. I CAN REMEMBER I DIDN'T LIKE TO EAT PIE WHEN WE STOPPED AT HAWAII. I LANDED IN AMERICA IN DECEMBER, 1915 - CAME BY WAY OF HAWAII. IN HAWAII WE STOPPED TO SEE THE TOWN AND IT WAS FUNNY TO SEE PEOPLE WEARING "YUKATA" AND "ZORI." I CANNOT REMEMBER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WERE ON THE SHIP BUT SOME PEOPLE WERE ON THEIR SECOND VISITS TO AMERICA. THE NAME OF THE SHIP WAS "KOREA-MARU." I REMEMBER PLAYING CARD GAME CALLED "HYAKUNIN-ISHU" AND OTHER CARD GAMES IN OUR CABINS.

I THOUGHT AMERICA WAS A RICH AND CULTURAL COUNTRY AND I EXPECTED TO OBTAIN A GOOD EDUCATION.

### III. FIRST IMPRESSIONS UPON LANDING IN AMERICA

I REMEMBER WE WERE EXAMINED AT THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE AND HAD TO STAY A FEW DAYS AT THE DETENTION CENTER.

MY FIRST IMPRESSION WAS ONE OF SURPRISE TO SEE THE WIDE ROADS AND THE FACT THAT THEREWERE "MISO" AND "SHOYU."

I WAS QUESTIONED REGARDING SEVERAL MATTERS BUT I WAS TREATED WELL.

WHEN I FIRST LANDED IN AMERICA I STAYED WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND MY FIRST JOB WAS WOOD CHOPPING. IN SPRING, I WAS PLANNING TO ENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PRACTICE ENGLISH CONVERSATION.

I ASSOCIATED MOSTLY WITH THE JAPANESE PEOPLE SO THERE WAS A LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH CAUCASIANS.

AFTER I CAME TO AMERICA MY FATHER, WHO WAS IN JAPAN FELL ILL, AND I HAD TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY BECAUSE OF THE FIRST BORN SON. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DO FARM WORK BECAUSE I WAS A STUDENT THEN.

### IV. PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT

I RETURNED TO JAPAN FOR AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE. WE WERE MARRIED AT A SHINTO SHRINE BY A SHINTO PRIEST AND AFTER WEDDING CEREMONY, HAD A FEAST.

I HAD NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CAUCASIANS EXCEPT ON BUSINESS MATTERS. I GOT USED TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE AS MY CHILDREN GREW UP.

AFTER THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II, WE MOVED FROM CALIFORNIA TO UTAH AND EXPERIENCED MANY HARDSHIPS.

I STUDIED ENGLISH FOR FIVE YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL IN JAPAN AND AFTER I CAME TO AMERICA I ATTENDED AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THREE YEARS.

FARMING IS NOT A VERY PROFITABLE BUSINESS AND I WAS AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF BANK'S HIGH INTEREST RATE.

WE LEFT LOS ANGELES AND SETTLED IN UTAH. I PURCHASED ELEVEN ACRES OF LAND FOR \$7600. THE HOUSE WAS IN A VERY POOR CONDITION. WE ENCOUNTERED LITTLE DIFFICULTY BECAUSE THE OWNER DID NOT WANT TO SELL THE LAND AND THE HOUSE TO A JAPANESE. THEN MY ELDEST SON TRANSFERRED FROM UCLA IN LOS ANGELES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH AND HE HELPED US BY ENGAGING A LAWYER TO BUY THE PROPERTY.

I HAVE AN ORCHARD AND ALSO GROW STRAWBERRIES.

JAPANESE ORGANIZATIONS DID NOT HELP ME; I WAS JUST A MEMBER. IF I HAD ANY PROBLEMS AND ASKED FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE, THEY WOULD HAVE HELPED ME.

BECAUSE OF MY DAILY FARMING CHORES, I DID NOT HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY ENTERTAINMENT OR HOBBIES; NOT BECAUSE THERE WERE NO ENTERTAINMENT.

I HOPED TO REAR MY CHILDREN TO BECOME A WORTHY PERSON; THEREFORE, WE, AS THEIR PARENTS, WERE DISCREET IN WORDS AND DEEDS BECAUSE PARENTS' DAILY WORDS AND DEEDS HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT UPON CHILDREN.

AT FIRST, MY DESIRE WAS TO HAVE MY CHILDREN EDUCATED IN JAPAN, BUT SINCE I HAD NO RELATIVES IN JAPAN, I HAD NO ONE WHO COULD TAKE CARE OF THEM SO I BROUGHT THEM UP IN AMERICA. NOW, WHEN I THINK OF THIS FACT, I AM THANKFUL THAT I REARED THEM MYSELF AND I REALIZED THAT PARENTS SHOULD REAR THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

DURING WORLD WAR II, I SENT MANY THINGS WHICH WERE DESPERATELY NEEDED IN JAPAN TO OUR RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES AND WHICH WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THEM. I REALIZED I HAD TO HELP THEM FROM AMERICA, THEREBY OBTAINING THE STATUS OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

I THOUGHT THAT NISEIS WOULD BE IN A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION IF THEY THE KNEW/JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

I LEARNED ABOUT GOD'S LOVE EXTENDING FROM NEIGHBOR'S LOVE AND WAS BAPTIZED AT A CHURCH IN SEATTLE IN 1936.

#### V. DEPRESSION PERIOD

DURING THIS PERIOD I WAS IN SEATTLE, AND WORKING AS A GARDNER. MY WORK DECREASED TO ALMOST HALF AND I HAD DIFFICULTY IN PAYING MY TELEPHONE BILLS.

I HAD ALWAYS PLANNED TO RETURN TO JAPAN, BUT I RESOLVED TO SETTLE IN AMERICA AFTER JAPAN WAS DEFEATED IN THE WORLD WAR II. I REALIZED HOW DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE TO LIVE IN JAPAN AFTER THE WAR AND BESIDES AMERICA IS MY CHILDREN'S COUNTRY.

#### VI. THE WORLD WAR II PERIOD

ON THE SURFACE, THE CAUCASIANS DID NOT SAY ANYTHING, BUT REALLY THEY DIDN'T LIKE JAPANESE AND DID NOT TRUST THEM.

THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR RESULTED FROM THE AMERICAN PRESSURE ON JAPAN FOR OIL, AND I WAS EMBARRASSED BY THIS EVENT.

AT THE TIME WHEN THE NOTICE OF RELOCATION WAS ANNOUNCED I WAS OPERATING A NURSERY (FOR THE SECOND YEAR) IN SEATTLE. I THOUGHT THAT THE RELOCATION NOTICE APPLIED ONLY TO THE ISSEIS AND SO WAS PREPARED TO TURN MY NURSERY OVER TO MY ELDEST SON. TO OPERATE. BUT WHEN I LEARNED THAT THE NOTICE INCLUDED ALL NISEIS AS WELL, I WAS DISAPPOINTED. I SOLD MY NURSERY SHOP WHICH WAS WORTH \$20,000 FOR ONLY \$1,000 AND PREPARED FOR RELOCATION.

CAUCASIANS CONSIDERED THEIR OWN ADVANTAGES, TOO. AT FIRST, THEY ASKED US TO GIVE THEM AID IF THE JAPANESE MILITARY FORCES LANDED IN AMERICA. BUT AFTER THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE EVACUATION, THEY PROBABLY REALIZED THAT THE MILITARY ORDER WOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

MY ELDEST SON WAS NINETEEN AND A HALF YEARS OLD, AND IN TOTAL THERE WERE SIX CHILDREN, ALL TWO YEARS PART IN AGES.

AT THAT TIME I BELONGED TO THE SEATTLE CHURCH AND THE PASTOR CAME AND CONSULTED WITH ME BUT THERE WAS NO SOLUTION BECAUSE HE HIMSELF WAS IN THE SAME FATE WITH ME. PASTOR NICHOLSON ALSO VISITED ME.

#### VII. ASSEMBLY CENTER, RELOCATION CENTER, WAR TIME PERIOD

WE MOVED TO SPRINGVILLE, UTAH AND I WORKED ON A COLLECTIVE FARM. THEN I MOVED TO THE PRESENT ADDRESS IN SALT LAKE CITY AND CULTIVATED STRAWBERRIES AND GREW FRUITS.

CONSIDERING THE VIEW, APPARENTLY THE LOYALTY OF NISEIS IS RIGHT.

IT IS NOT RIGHT TO DRAFT NISEIS WHILE THEY WERE BEING EVACUATED AND TREATED AS AN ENEMY.

IV. CONCLUSION.

MY WIFE AND I CELEBRATED OUR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND I ALSO CELEBRATED MY 77TH BIRTHDAY. NOW I AM CONTENT WITH MY RETIRED LIFE AND AM ABLE TO ENJOY MY HOBBY. I HAVE NO CARE BECAUSE MY CHILDREN ARE LIVING WELL AND I AM THANKFUL THAT I HAVE FOURTEEN GRANDCHILDREN.

THE JAPANESE WHO HAVE LIVED IN AMERICA ARE LACKING IN COOPERATION AND FORE-SIGHT; THEREFORE, THE JAPANESE SOCIETY PROGRESSSED SLOWLY, EVEN IF AN INDIVIDUAL HAD SUCCEEDED IN HIS OWN BUSINESS. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE GENEROUS LOVE AND COOPERATION.